

**CRY** the beloved country, these things are not yet at an end.  
**THE** sun pours down on the earth, on the lovely land that  
man cannot enjoy.  
**HE** knows only the fear in his heart.

-Cry the Beloved Country  
Alan Paton



**MISANTHROPE**

**Issue # 7**



## Introduction to Issue #7

Welcome to Issue #7! This issue marks Misanthrope's first full year of existence. Although a year isn't all that long, I'm still kind of proud. As usual a lot of stuff has been happening. I still managed to get this issue out close to it's deadline. I finally caved in and got a job. At least it is doing something that I like to do (silk screening). They are letting me use all their equipment, so everyone can expect Misanthrope shirts to be available soon. They also have the capabilities to make pins, so I'm going to make some pins up to. I'm being paid peanuts, and I'm really miserable while I'm there but I was so broke I was sucking gas out of my lawnmower and pouring into my car, to get me around. The whole idea is that with this extra money I'll be able to do more stuff with this zine, my distro, record label, etc. Funny thing is I'm more broke now than I was when I didn't have a job. I hate it when your paycheck is already spent before you get it. I won't even get into how angry I get when I take a look at how much money they take out for taxes. But what am I to do, I was at the end of my rope. I plan on retiring by December, I just need some start up money.

This issue will unfortunately cost you \$1 (Or a trade, of some sorts), I'm doing larger press runs, and I just don't have the money anymore to give it away for free.

I'm making a couple changes in Misanthrope, as you'll probably notice if you are familiar with this zine. I've decided to get rid of the "My Commentary" column. This is my zine if I have a writing of some sorts to put in here I'll put it in wherever I want. There won't be a Dick Head Cop of the Month this time either. Not because I'm getting rid of the wonderful little contest but because no one submitted any candidates. Please people send in your nominee for DICK HEAD COP OF THE MONTH.

You can now contact Misanthrope through your computer, my E-mail address is listed below. I'm still thinking about a Web Site, I'm not to sure I want one to deal with one though. I don't have any time as it is.

As some of you may or may not know Misanthrope is in the process of putting out two split release compilations. The first "Battle Hymns For the Revolution" will be a split release with Counterattack Distribution. If you are in a Punk Band (I don't care what your specific genre is) and are interested in contributing a song or two please contact me. The second is going to be strictly a Florida Band Compilation. I'm trying to get every punk band in Florida to participate. If you are in a punk band here in Florida, please contact me.

Misanthrope is always looking for people who are interested in writing commentaries, essays, articles, doing artwork, basically anything. I need help to make this a better zine.

Also Misanthrope Records is looking for Punk Bands interested in releasing Music on the label. I'm looking for Manuscripts to publish too. Please don't be shy, send me stuff!

## AD INFORMATION

Misanthrope offers free ad space for non-profit organizations, charity groups, and Anarchist groups. All other ads cost \$5.00, regardless of the size. The issue your ad appears in will be sent to you. Classified ads are free.

## DISTRIBUTION

If you are interested in Distributing Misanthrope, I ask that you just pay postage costs. \$3.00 will get you 20 some odd copies, if you want more than do the math. If you are interested in subscribing to Misanthrope it is just \$8.00 a year. Subscriptions to prisoners are free upon request.

MISANTHROPE  
1059 6th Lane N.  
Naples, FL 34102

E-mail: [misanthrp@mediaone.net](mailto:misanthrp@mediaone.net)

## A REQUEST FOR A FRIEND

As I write this a good friend of mine is rotting away in an institution. He was convicted of a couple major felonies (actually more than just a couple). He could be locked up in this place until he's 19, he is only 17 now. I, along with a lot of his other friends miss him. The situation he is in right now is hardly desirable.

I'm asking for you reading this to do me a favor. It's a small and simple request I'm asking here. Write him a letter, that's all. He's bored and lonely in there. Receiving letters makes his day a little better. I can promise you he'll respond. Just write him, that's all I'm asking, tell him that I asked you to. He's a great guy. It would be really appreciated.

TRENT RYAN / KELLY HALL  
2208 Castilla St.  
PUNTA GORDA, FL 33950



## BACK ISSUES OF MISANTHROPE:

ISSUE # 1	50
ISSUE # 2	50
ISSUE # 3	\$1.00
ISSUE # 4	\$1.00
ISSUE # 4.5	.50
ISSUE # 5	\$1.00
ISSUE # 6	\$1.00

7"s- All 7"s Are \$3.00

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CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE - In a few hours of Madness - (Havoc Records)  
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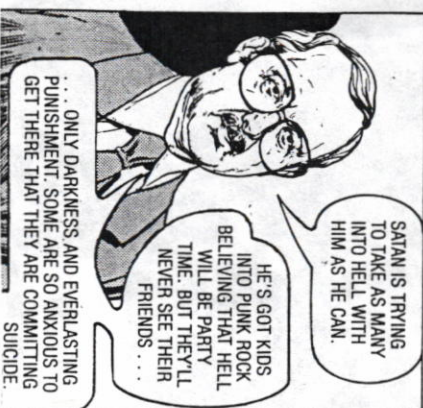
KATASTROFALUE  
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DISPROVE

YACOPSE  
CODE 13  
DISAGREE  
GORILLA BISCUITS

\* All Pamphlets, zines and cassettes are free to prisoners upon request. Profits go towards local charities, Raze The Walls, towards expanding the selection here at Misanthrope, and towards future releases under the name Misanthrope.

Please send well concealed cash, postal money orders, or checks made out to TOM GABEL. Be sure to list an address, and alternatives. Send All orders to the Address below.

MISANTHROPE  
1059 6th Lane N.  
NAPLES, FL 34102



... ONLY DARKNESS AND EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT. SOME ARE SO ANXIOUS TO GET THERE THAT THEY ARE COMMITTING SUICIDE.



## MISANTHROPE DISTRIBUTION

Cassettes: All Cassettes are \$4.00

**THE ADVERSARIES-** Anything I say about this band would be biased since I'm in it. (10 Songs)  
**THE SCAMS** - Fast Punk Rock from St. Petersburg Florida. This shit reeks of cider.  
**THE SCAMS** - CHAOS PUNKS AND FUCKIN DRUNKS- The newest release from these drunks.  
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**SHORT ORDER-** Hard-core from here in Naples, sometimes they remind me of Sick Of It All. (5 Songs)

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**ANARCHISM & RACISM-** By Lorenzo Kom Boa Ervin. \$2.00  
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**DEAR MOTORIST.....** \$1.00  
**AN ANIMAL LIBERATION PRIMER-** (second Edition) \$2.00  
**RAZE THE WALLS! WHAT IT IS-** \$2.00

**Court Upholds Use Of Electric Chair**  
**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** (AP) -- Seven Months after a fire started during the last Florida electrocution, the state Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that death in the 74-year old electric chair is not cruel or unusual punishment.

Monday's ruling clears the way for a resumption of executions, which had been on hold since flames up to a foot long flared from a mask worn by Pedro Medina during his March execution.

An autopsy report said Medina died instantly when the electricity was turned on and did not suffer any pain from the fire, blamed on corrosion in an electrically conducting copper screen inside the mask.

The court acted in lifting a stay of execution granted to inmate Leo Jones, who challenged use of the chair. He was sentenced to die for the 1981 killing of a police officer.

Gov. Lawton Chiles called the court's ruling "appropriate and well-reasoned" and said he would set execution dates for two death row inmates, including Jones, as soon as he gets official notification of the ruling.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice Leander Shaw noted that flames also burst out during the 1990 execution of Jesse Tafero.

Florida's electric chair, by its own track record, has proven itself to be a dinosaur more befitting the laboratory of Baron Frankenstein than the death chamber of Florida State Prison," Shaw wrote. Five of the seven justices urged lawmakers to consider allowing lethal injection instead of electrocution.

Senate Majority Leader Locke Burt said the suggestion "will be taken seriously by my colleagues in the Legislature when we reconvene in March."

By Jackie Hadlifax  
 Associated Press Writer

**Woman Cuts Nails After 24 Years**  
**DALLAS (AP)** Her dream of setting a world record is now only a memory. Lauretta Adams finally did something she hadn't done since the early 1970's: "I scratched."

The 43-year old woman said she had been growing her fingernails for 24 years in a quest for the world record for the longest nails.

Before a doctor and a manicurist cut them in just 20 minutes on Oct. 10, they totaled about 160 inches with the longest one measuring 35 inches, she said. But her dream to get into the Guinness Book of World Records recently turned to pain.

"For about the last year, they'd been hurting me," Ms. Adams told Dallas-Fort Worth television station KDFW. "Besides, the world record holder is a man from India and he has me beat by 76 inches. I would never have been able to pass him." She said she kept her clippings, but hasn't decided what to do with them.

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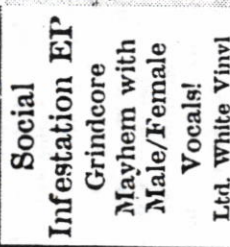
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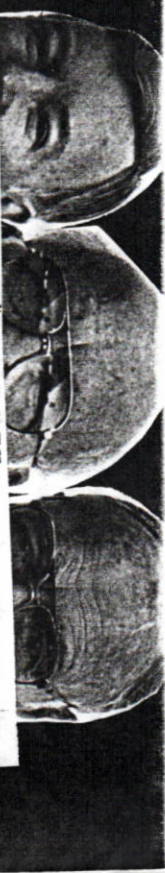


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### Modern Slavery In Full Effect

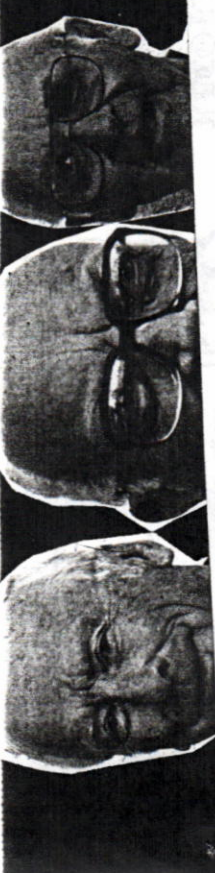
Over the last decade, government and prison officials nationwide have intensified their campaign to criminalize Blacks and Hispanics while slowly establishing and solidifying code words and phrases which will be used and are being used to further perpetuate this state of modern slavery. The rationale may be to make society safe, under the guise of the right wing's law and order, but the de facto truth is the enslavement of a race and nation of people. Rehabilitation is a code word for turning young Black males into old men before they are released from prison, if ever. It is a diabolical scheme that is well-disguised, but nevertheless a grand and wicked conspiracy. I will not come as a surprise to learn that prisons are the number one growth industry in this country, a lucrative business reminiscent of days past when our beloved ancestors were held in chattel slavery. I contend that the crime bill and imprisonment of New Afrikaners (Blacks) is no more than the process of legally perpetuating slavery actually backed by the United States constitution. The 13th amendment states: "Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for a crime whereof the party has been duly convicted." (Emphasis added).

This same surreptitious process was witnessed by our sister Sojourney Truth as she struggle to establish reparation for those who had built this country. After the abolition of slavery, the United States set out to re-enslave New Afrikaners by refusing to give them land or any means of self-support after release from the plantations, causing many to participate in unscrupulous activity as they were systematically imprisoned. Just as they are doing today. We are faced with the same forced labor and the same brutal treatment given the chattel slave; it is now given to those prisoners who demand fair treatment and justice. The prison guard, the street cop, the FBI, judges, congress, from the big house to the white house are all vicious players in this complex conspiracy, and billions have been earmarked to keep the modern slave imprisoned.

Understand that none of the moneys are vocational or educational programs. Like our ancestors who were not allowed to read or write, we must be kept ignorant because they realize that education is knowledge is the beginning of freedom. There are presently over one million people locked behind these plantation walls, "duly convicted." In essence there are over one million slaves. The entire prison plantation is over crowded. But so were the slave ships. And that didn't stop the haul. More white overseers are being hired who are equipped with sadistic mentalities and licentious demeanor. They are hired to keep the prison plantation running smoothly and trouble free. They organize like a paramilitary militia, composed of racist whites armed with all of the slave controlling apparatus: guns, nightsticks, shackles, mace, full riot gear and protection which can be used on the slave at the pleasure of the overseer. Because of the racism that bubbles from beneath the surface of the nation's psyche, the whole criminal network cops, courts, the executive and legislative will remain wicked. And they will do anything to the modern slaves to keep the stigmatized, de-socialized and brainwashed into believing they are inferior so as to keep them "penalty" subservient. We have to unite against this war upon us. We are limited in our choice of weapons. But universal law dictates that a closed fist, symbolic of unity, is stronger than an open hand, symbolic of division. We must struggle to understand the necessity for a United Front.

Build to Win.....

In Struggle,  
Nantambu Lummuba  
Reg. 48874-080 Unit B/A  
P.O. Box 7000-USP  
Florence, Co. 81226



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### The Netherlands

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Dick Verheul +  
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Manu Caddie  
Campaign for  
Responsible Consumerism  
c/o Subsonic Design  
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Subsonic@itug.co.nz

### Turkish Jailings Raise Human Rights Questions Abroad

By Stephen Kinzer  
The New York Times  
October 30, 1997

ISTANBUL, Turkey -- A recent series of government actions has led to a new round of charges, including some from European governments, that human rights are not being respected in Turkey. On Oct. 19, the blind lawyer who is one of Turkey's most outspoken social critics, Esber Yagmurdereli, was taken into custody as he finished taping an interview at an Istanbul television station. Yagmurdereli, who has already spent 14 years in prison on political charges, was ordered by a Turkish court to serve another 23 years after he asserted that the Kurdish minority is being oppressed in Turkey.

On Oct. 21, Seven members of the Human Rights Association, including its president, Akın Birdal, were sentenced to jail terms ranging from one to two years for making statements deemed sympathetic to Kurdish insurgents. They were convicted of "inciting hatred and division by emphasizing differences of class, race, and regional origin." The next day a court in Manisa revoked its order that police officers accused of torturing 14 young people appear face to their accusers.

The episodes raised questions about Turkey's human rights practices, which have been debated for years both here and abroad.

A spokesman for the British government said in London that the actions taken against Yagmurdereli and Birdal "sit ill with Turkey's commitment to uphold freedom of expression." In Paris, a government spokesman said French officials had "learned with great distress" of Yagmurdereli's arrest, and urged the Turkish authorities "to respond to the expectations of Turkish and European public opinion and to put an end to judicial practices that tarnish Turkey."

A spokesman for the German government called Yagmurdereli's arrest "absolutely incomprehensible." He described it as "an attempt to gag human rights activists" and said it "not only undermines the foundations of democracy but also does major damage to the international standing of Turkey."

Responding to criticism, Foreign Minister Ismail Cem said Turkey "must accelerate our improvement in some areas." But he added: "Turkey's deficiencies have been exaggerated by some circles in the European Union for political reasons."

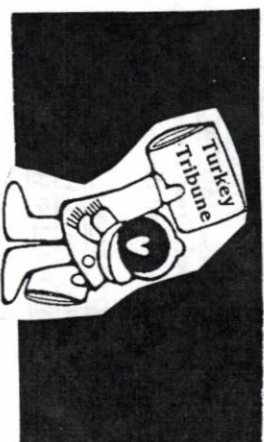
Senior government officials seemed especially embarrassed by the reaction to Yagmurdereli's detention. A court had ruled that after he made a statement deemed illegal, his renewed criticism meant that he should serve the rest of his earlier sentence and additional time.

Prison officials gave Yagmurdereli, 52, a comfortable room rather than a cell and quickly offered him a medical examination, apparently with the aim of finding some minor ailment that they could use as an excuse to free him on medical grounds. He declined the exam, saying he was in good health and needed no special treatment.

"We are seeking a special amnesty formula so that Yagmurdereli is not kept in prison until laws against crimes of thought can be repealed," said the minister of justice, Otan Sungurur.

"We are doing whatever we can to activate a special pardoning procedure for Yagmurdereli."

In interviews before he was taken into custody, however, Yagmurdereli repeatedly said he would refuse any offer of amnesty. After his arrest, his son Ugur asserted, "My father will not accept a release from prison unless the necessary legislation lifting restrictions of freedom of thought is passed."





## Buy Nothing Day Goes Interstellar!

International Buy Nothing Day is a celebration of simplicity; it's about our shop-'til-you-drop lifestyle on a dying planet; it's about getting our runaway consumer culture back on a sustainable path.

Last year, in ten countries around the world, people posterized their cities, held critical mass rallies, organized "credit card cut-ups" at malls, performed street theater. It was the biggest spontaneous outburst of anti-consumer sentiment the world had ever seen.

**BUY NOTHING DAY 1997 IS ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH** (remember: it always falls on the first shopping day after US Thanksgiving, traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year, and a starter's pistol in the run-up to the Christmas shopping frenzy). This year, why not take part? Rise above the commodified, advertiser-engineered, niche-marketed, sales-figure-boosting, GDP-pumping consumerism of the Christmas Season. Plans are afoot to buy nothing for 30-second Buy Nothing Day commercials in countries worldwide. Look out for airings on TV stations in Canada, the US, Australia, Belgium, Japan, the Netherlands and the UK.

So... get together with a few friends. Pass around the hat, pool your resources, pick up the telephone and call your local TV station. 30 seconds of airtime is not as expensive as you might think. Alternatively, if you can't raise the bucks, call your community's public access station. They'll probably air the ad for free!

If airing a TV ad in your community seems too ambitious, there are lots of other ways to celebrate Buy Nothing Day. Some of our co-conspirators around the world conjured up some ingenious ways to spread the Buy Nothing Day meme. Below are just a few of their ideas to get your neurons firing.

1. **Don't Buy Anything.** Okay, so we may be stating the obvious, but going 24 hours without making a single purchase ain't as easy as it sounds. Heck, even Al, our Buy Nothing Day Campaign Manager, bit the big one last year, succumbed to the "buyallogical" urge and broke down into a blubbery wreck. He was hungry. The blueberry muffin was freshly baked. Ah, how the righteous have fallen!
2. **Posting.** Last year, poster campaigns helped kickstart Buy Nothing Day all over the world. So why not help spread the word?
3. **Street Theater.** Grab a few friends and go to your local shopping mall or plaza and act out a play. Or perform a little ditty. Or pass out pamphlets. Use your imagination and creativity to get the message across.
4. **Stage a credit card cut-up.** What is the balance on YOUR credit card? Maxed out? Here's a way to wipe your credit card clean, and, according to a group of folks in Seattle, all you need is a pair of scissors.

## 5. Give "Christmas Gift Exemption Vouchers."

Instead of spending their Christmas Eve trawling through a mall in a panic looking for token gifts you don't even need, encourage your friends and loved ones to spend time WITH you, not money ON you. Present them with a voucher, which exempts them from buying you Christmas presents conditional on them spending quality time with you instead.

6. **Prepare a press release.** When the Seattle based Raging Grannies sang a few ditties in their local mall about consumerism ruining the holiday season, they attracted a nice little crowd. They also had the foresight to write and distribute their own press release and found themselves on PBS! So, if you want to make a splash, let your local newspaper, radio and TV stations know about it.



7. **Collaborate.** Below is a list of contact information for some of our international co-conspirators. Find out what's happening on a continent near you.....

**United States Of America**  
bunothingday@adbusters.org

**Australia**  
Rodney Vlais  
eco-beal@vianet.net.au

**Great Britain**  
Enough!  
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6 Mount Street  
Manchester  
M2 5NS

TEL: +44 161 225-4502  
ethicon@mcr1.poptel.org.uk

## Widow in Standoff in U.S. Spotlight

**ROBY, ILL.** (AP) -- To neighbors, 51-year-old Ann Allen was the harmless loner who sometimes talked of spies in helicopters or sprang from ditches to surprise people. Outside this rural community, she was unknown.

But that was before Allen who took up her shotgun and threatened sheriff's deputies who were sent to take her away for a court ordered psychiatric exam. In a standoff that has gone on for a month now, she has fended off a tear gas attack by slathering petroleum jelly on her face, withstood bean bag bullets by wearing heavy layers of clothing and ignored the Barry Manilow songs blared through loudspeakers.

Now, the widow is in the national spotlight, the darling of right-wing groups who feel she is the latest example -- after Ruby Ridge and Waco -- of innocent civilians being bullied by overzealous law enforcement.

Radio talk show hosts across the nation have used the case to engage callers in a debate over property rights, mental health laws and the right to bear arms.

"The American people are not going to take this lying down," said Thomas Wayne, a spokesman for a Michigan-based "patriot" group.

Wayne said the women's cause is compelling because she has not been charged with any crime, yet must live under 24-hour surveillance of state police.

The standoff began with the court order obtained by Allen's family, who had begun to worry about her increasingly bizarre behavior and depression since her husband died of cancer in 1989.

Allen holed up in her home in Roby, about 20 miles southeast of Springfield, after telling sheriff's deputies and her brother to get off her property.

She fired at officers twice during the early days of the standoff, with no injuries. The second shotgun blast came after troopers pummeled her in the chest with bean bag bullets.

When deputies tried to drive her out with tear gas, she stuck her head under running water and used petroleum jelly to prevent her pores from absorbing the gas.

Weary police speculate that the avid canner has enough food in her cupboards to last several more weeks.

Allen's family issued a statement last week expressing support for police saying "we're just trying to get her some help." Otherwise they've been quiet.

But as the standoff drags on, sympathies in Allen's wooded neighborhood have shifted decidedly in her favor.

Last week, about 150 protesters gathered in the county seat to demand police leave Allen alone. Many said it was inhumane for troopers to cut off her water and power, particularly as temperatures dropped near freezing.

A woman was arrested after she sneaked past police barriers and tried to sprint to Allen's door with a bag of groceries.

"It's a surreal experience," said Shellie Jacobs, one of Allen's neighbors.

Ms. Jacobs, like residents in about a dozen other houses in the wooded area, must check in with troopers who have set up roadblocks at the entrances to the neighborhood. She must get clearance for visitors, and only recently had her family's mail and garbage service restored.

"The other day, my 4-year-old said, 'Mommy, when are the policemen going to be out of our yard?'" Ms. Jacobs said.

That's a question State Police Director Terrance Gainer gets asked almost daily. He insists that the dozens of troopers and hidden tactical agents who rotate duty on the 24-hour watch -- at a cost to the state of almost \$500,000 so far -- will stay at it until the standoff ends.

Gainer conceded that the waiting game and criticism are frustrating. But he said mental health experts have assured him the this is the way to bring the standoff to a peaceful end.

"We are not in this woman's face," Gainer said. "We are there for this woman's protection and for the protection of her neighbors."

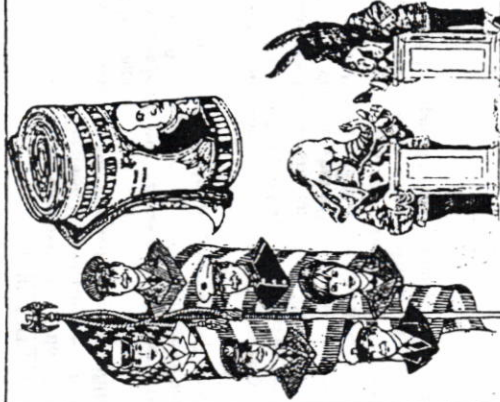
The five-week standoff came to an end on Thursday the 30th. Shirley had ventured onto her porch three times Thursday to throw back food packages pushed into her home by authorities.

The final time, a trooper saw something shiny in her hands and shot, hitting her twice with bean bag bullets.

"The good news is that she's safe. And the great news is we did it without anybody getting injured or killed," State Police Director Terrance Gainer said.

Allen was taken to a hospital in Springfield for a medical evaluation and, later, the psychiatric exam. The shiny object in her hand was a pair of scissors.

By Nicole Ziegler  
Associated Press





## CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED

Since the beginning of time there has been a natural urge towards hierarchy. Whether it be the eldest in a family down to the youngest, the Patriarch and his clan, or the Monarch and the "peasants."

In all these systems there has been instances of rebellion. The people becoming fed up with their set place on the "ladder" and revolting. Not that it should be surprising, the people usually doing the lashing out being the one's lowest on the "ladder." The people with the least amount of power, who do the majority of the work.

Stated in the Declaration Of Independence is the "Consent Theory Of Obedience." The theory that government has its basis of power through the "consent of the governed." This theory first appeared in the writings of the English philosopher John Locke, during the Seventeenth century. It was incorporated into the Declaration Of Independence about one hundred years later.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED."

But how was this consent obtained? Our own United States Government is based upon a constitution written over two hundred years ago. This was voted into effect by the majority of the people living here in the United States. This Majority in reality was an extremely small minority. Those privileged enough to participate in government. White, wealthy, male, landowners. These privileged few found it in their best interests to adopt this form of government. A so called Democracy. But what about Women, African Americans, Native Americans, and anyone else who fell within this country's ever expanding borders. Not to mention the countless generations to come.

Holding true to the theory of consent, people obey the rules of organizations voluntarily because they are free to join them or not; once joined the individual must follow the laws agreed upon by the group/organization they are ruled by. It is by this agreement governments derive the right to take money from you in taxes, call upon you for service in war, compel you to adjust your controversies in it's courts, or insist that you obey it's laws. By taking advantage of the benefits you agree that you will follow its guidelines. By participating in it's elections you give consent to being governed by those elected, regardless of whether or not its the particular candidate you voted for. When people establish a government based on their own consent, they are under obligation to obey it. They cannot rule without being ruled. Every right imposes a duty.

## PRESENT DAY

We now find ourselves at the end of the 20th century. The population shows no intention of slowing down it staggering growth. The age of conquest, colonization and expansion has long since passed. America fulfilled it's Manifest Destiny, and then some, a long time ago.

There are in the world today nearly 170 countries that are recognized as independent each with a defined territory, a people, and a government that is responsible for making and implementing law within that territory. All people have been "branded" by one government or another.

All the land in the world is property. You may ask yourself, when did I give consent to being governed. You didn't, you have no choice. By being born in this country you fell under it's jurisdiction. You became one of its citizens, you are in a way it's property. A part of its future work force. You are what will carry this country into the next century and beyond.

I claim no allegiance to this country. But does that matter. Does it matter that I want no part of it? No. Their dream of the future gives a big fuck you to my hopes and aspirations, my morals, convictions, my earth. Where am I to run to when the streets are clogged with cars. Where am I supposed to make a home when all the land is either sold or to expensive for me to afford.

## Russians OK Chemical Weapons Ban

MOSCOW (AP) -- Russian lawmakers cleared a global ban on chemical weapons Wednesday and sent it to President Boris Yeltsin for signing, a move that will require Russia to destroy the world's largest chemical arsenal.

Russia has more than 40,000 tons of Soviet-era chemical weapons, and its cooperation is considered essential for the Chemical Weapons Convention to succeed. Russia was among 165 countries that signed the ban in 1993, but until recently parliament had been reluctant to ratify it. Yeltsin has long supported the ban and, at his urging, parliament's lower house approved it last week. The upper house, of Federation Council, ratified it unanimously Wednesday.

In Washington, President Clinton called it an "important step forward in achieving our mutual arms control objectives."

"Russia's ratification makes it possible for Russia to join the United States in playing a leadership role in ensuring that all of the convention's benefits are realized," Clinton said in a written statement.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov said the chemical weapons ban "fully corresponds to the interests of Russia and the stability of the world."

Defense Minister Igor Sergeyev applauded parliament for approving the ban and overcoming opposition from some hard-liners, who said Russia cannot afford the huge cost of dismantling its chemical arsenals.

Some lawmakers may have been swayed by Yeltsin's argument that with or without the treaty Russia will have to get rid of the aging chemical weapons, all at least ten years old. And joining the ban will bring in foreign aid for the job.

Russian officials expect foreign money to cover about 1 billion of the estimated 6 billion cost of destroying about 44,000 tons of chemical weapons.

The Russian government also promised to earmark more money for the weapon's destruction: \$86 million next year, up from the 13 million envisioned in the budget.

Russia's program for dismantling chemical weapons has been criticized as unsafe by environmentalists. Now that Russia has ratified the treaty, its facilities will be open to international inspection.

The treaty also will give Russia a look into U.S. chemical arsenals, the world's second-largest. The United States ratified the ban in April, shortly before it took effect.

Parliament has five days to send the ratification measure to Yeltsin, who then has two weeks to sign it. This is likely to happen quickly.

Yeltsin's government wants Russia to be on board in time to take part in a meeting in The Hague, Netherlands, in December. Otherwise, Russia would be the only permanent member of the U.N. Security Council left out of the decision-making.

The Chemical Weapons Convention bans the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of chemical weapons. More than 100 nations have ratified it. But several countries hostile to the West, such as Iraq, Syria, Libya and North Korea, have not signed the treaty, raising some questions about its overall effectiveness.

11/05/97

## Inmates End Mexican Prison Rebellion

AP/DACA, Mexico (AP) -- Inmates at a northern Mexican penitentiary freed eight guards early today, 10 hours after a rebellion over living conditions.

Jose Luis Coindreau, a spokesman for Nuevo Leon state, said the inmates surrendered after being granted a television interview to air their grievances. No one was reported injured.

Coindreau was quoted by the Notimex news agency as saying some 30 inmates from a maximum security wing took part in the overnight rebellion at Apodaca prison, on the outskirts of Monterrey some 435 miles northwest of Mexico City.

The prisoners seized control of the wing Monday afternoon, took the guards hostage, barricaded themselves inside and began chanting protest slogans.

Reporters said the rebellious inmates handed them handwritten statements protesting bad food, crowding, bad treatment by the guards and were demanding the resignation of prison director Fernando Torrecuadra.

Officials said they were studying the grievances. At the height of the disturbance, the government sent scores of armed riot police to surround the prison, which houses about 1,500 inmates.

Notimex quoted one freed guard, Mario Fernandez Ramos, as saying he was not harmed by the inmates. He said they did not carry firearms, and there were reports the inmates had homemade knives and picks.

11/04/1997 (AP)





## MORE GUNS FOR GOVERNMENT

While the UN works to disarm civilian populations, the US military recently scrutinized publicly for the first time an arsenal of exotic Russian weaponry that is up for sale. Demonstrations at a police shooting range and a Navy base in Panama City Beach, Florida included guns that can be fired under water and low-noise ammunition that precludes the need for a silencer.

A demonstration in a pool at the Navy base featured, as reported by the Associated Press on August 27th, "an SPP-1 pistol firing a 4.5mm bullet, even smaller than the common American .22 caliber, and a Special Underwater Assault Rifle firing a 5.66mm round, slightly larger than a .22-caliber round."

Marine Lieutenant Colonel Dennis Verzer was quoted by AP as saying that it was "an opportunity of a lifetime" to fire high-tech weapons produced by a former Cold War foe. "I never thought I would ever see a Russian team specifically demonstrate Russian weapons with the intent of potentially marketing them to the US," he said. "It's a new world order and both countries are cautiously going forward."

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Your life is brought to you electronically.

Your adventures begin every hour on the dot.

Actors are there to live out your dreams.

This is your Odyssey, this is TV.

-Tom

Better yet how am I supposed to build my home when I cannot afford their wood, and do not want to follow their building codes. How am I supposed to feed myself if I do not want to pay for their food. I cannot grow it for they have left me no land. I want none of the benefits of their society, these things are already mine. They are of the earth which is just as much mine as it is yours. But they leave me no where. Means to sustain life are not a privilege. Freedom. How can they call it freedom when there are so many laws and regulations. Their reality is a nightmare.

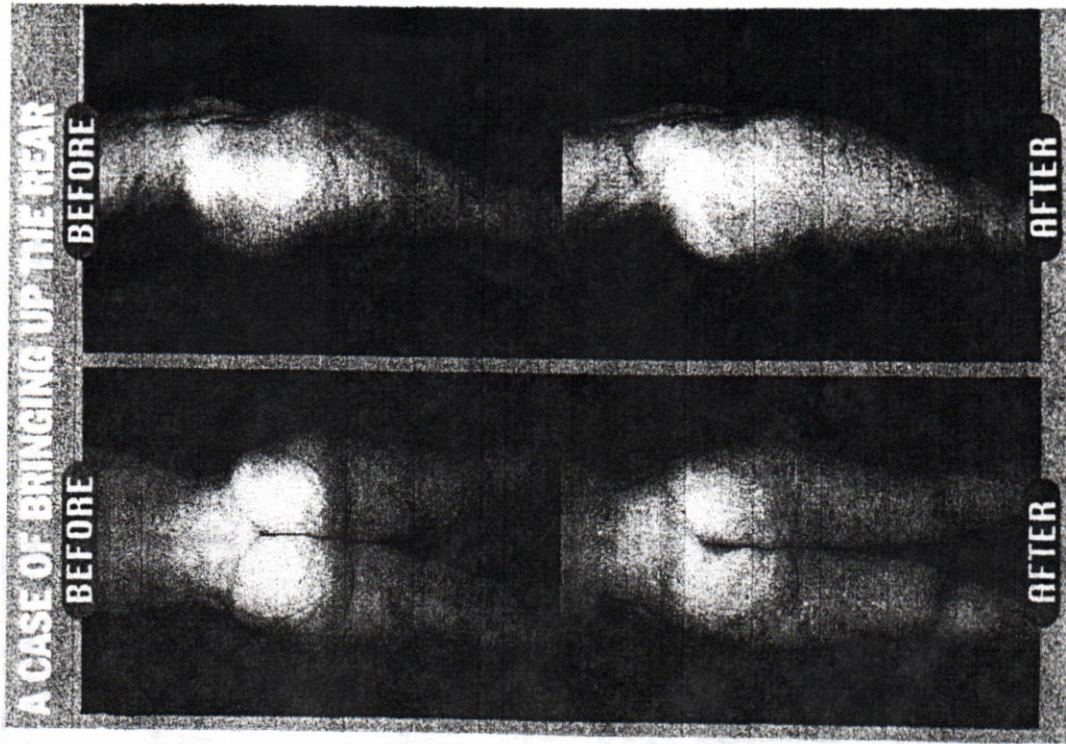
I reject it all. I reject everything associated with it. I reject the murder. I reject the lies. I reject the slavery. I am here in my own right, I can fend for myself thank you very much.

-Tom

XXI. We must not violate nature, but obey her; and we shall obey her if we fulfill the necessary desires and also the physical, if they bring no harm to us, but sternly reject the harmful.

- Epicurus

Fragments -The Vatican Collection  
"Epicurus' Exhortation"





## Prison: The Industry, The Correctional Facility

Any attempts to cover all aspects of prison in a single article would prove to be a waste of time. My goal for this "write up" is to accomplish a few things:

- 1.) To discuss prison as an industry.
- 2.) Discuss prison as a correctional institution and its effectiveness
- 3.) Show the relation between goal number 1 and 2.
- 4.) Give a skeletal outline of a typical day in prison.
- 5.) Relay my own personal experience with prison.
- 6.) Make a few suggestions to correct aspects of the current system and open a few doorways of thought until this system can be undone altogether.

In Florida, we do not have prisons. We have "Correctional Institutions." (C.I.'s) This term sounds more humane than "prison" but it is merely a physiological trick. It is the difference between "garbage man" and "sanitation engineer." A correctional institution is surrounded by razor - wire, guard - towers, and open land just like a prison. A C.I. is filled with frustration, aggression, humiliation, violence, racism, overall gloom, and even hopes and dreams, just like a prison. Yes, "correctional institution" is a pretty term geared to make the public think that some sort of humane rehabilitation has replaced the harsh reality known as prison.

It would be in vain to attempt to describe the prison experience; it is one of those things that cannot be described with justice. Then again, the prison experience is different for everyone. Some inmates say that, "prison is what you make it." Regardless of what one makes it, prison is not the country club people in the media make it out to be, at least not in Florida where I am currently doing time.

To start out, I would like to clear up a few prison myths presented by the media. First of all, we do not have air-conditioning. I have sweat my body weight daily throughout the past five summers of my incarceration. At this moment I am sweating. I sweat all day and all night, to the point that I have a nice sweat induced rash on my rump. It is no coincidence that prison violence in Florida rises during the summer months. When constantly dealing with heat so intense that some inmates pass out from it, a person is likely to become irritable. In Florida there is about one television per 75 inmates, and it does not have cable. Furthermore, legislation has been pushing to have this luxury of the high life taken out. The theory of the "electronic baby-sitter" is all that has kept television, in its meager form, in the prisons this long. Even as someone who would prefer to watch the walls in his cell that to take the mindfucking of TV programs, I can see the inevitable danger of removing television altogether. So, No! We don't watch HBO and cinemax 7 days a week. Additionally, the TVs that the prisons do have were not bought with taxpayer's dollars. Money for TVs is raised through profits made on the inmate canteen. Now that no more TVs (or weight equipment) is to be purchased, I wonder where this money will go. Education would be nice, but prison is an industry. Ultimately, this means that even more of a profit will be made by someone.

Yet another myth concerning prison is that inmates lounge around all day without restricted activities, decided schedules, or responsibilities. The basic skeletal outline of a day in prison is as follows. The lights click on around 5:30 A.M., inmates can go to breakfast at this time. At 8 or 8:30 depending on job assignments, inmates report to work. Nearly all maintenance inside institutions is done by prisoners - er - uh - I mean "inmates." By maintenance I mean everything from landscaping and masonry work to electrical repairs. All kitchen work is done by inmates, and even prison - uh - "Correctional Institution" construction is done by inmates who possess such skills. Yes, prisoners build the prisons where they will be incarcerated! Prisoners' work appropriate custody levels even do community service type jobs such as building roads, picking up litter beside highways, or work under the gun while cutting grass with a swing blade. After a usual 8 hour workday, inmates are allowed to shower - during certain hours - and take some leisure time to themselves. Throughout the day there are also "counts," a procedure where inmates return to their bunks and are counted. At 11 PM inmates are required to return to their bunks, if in open - bay dormitory, or to their cells if in a cell block. At 5:30 AM the next day, the process repeats itself.

If prison is to be looked upon as an industry, it should be clear that the "correctional" aspect loses relevance. This is the obvious relationship between prison as an industry to that as a place of corrections. Money cannot be made if there is no one to fill the bed spaces. Fortunately for the industry, filling the bed spaces has not been a problem. As of 1995, the country was building new prison beds at a rate of 1,725 a week in order to meet the demands of correctional facilities. This rate has only increased over the past 2 years. The handing out of more and more mandatory and lengthy sentences are two reasons for the escalating numbers of incarcerated people. Presently, the nationwide convict total is 1.6 million, in 1995 it was 1.1 million, and without a reversal of

## Living It

Submerged in a clear ooze with that foul smell that is so familiar. Sort of like when your mom runs out of tampons. Pushed through a hole being received by latex gloves into the big scary world never excepted to live in. Brought to a place called "home", where strange people get in your face and mumble stupid baby words. Then you grow up a little more to when you say your first word, not "dada" or "mama" but weird enough "shit head." You discover the wonderful world of A,B,C blocks and Mr. Rogers, you hate the plastic underwear your mom makes you wear, cause it seems like your living in your own shit.. Time gradually moves on to the first day of school, crying for your mommy while your sitting in a room full of numbers and stuffed animals - widely known as kindergarten. You find yourself being chased around a playground and Tonka Toys are the only thing important to you now. You start wondering where baby's come from and you see your parents smoking a joint. "Mom, Dad, what's that?" "Oh son its nothing, just a medicine we use to make us feel good when we are sick." Already you are lied to, by your parents no less. You hit about ten years old, and you start sneaking out at night to go look through your next door neighbors window so you can see them getting funky with each other, hoping you might catch a glimpse of the girls "things!" You have a porno stash in your closet as big as a sky scraper, but your mom finds them and throws them away. You try a cigarette for the first time and you cough for about 3 1/2 minutes straight and you get really light-headed.

You think back to yourself, "Huh these past 11 years haven't been so bad, I've smoked, I've seen tits, and I've even watched my parents smoke some wacky weed too!" As you grow you find that sex, violence, and drugs is what keeps this big 'ol pile a shit rotating. You go to a few parties, lose your virginity and take smoking up as a habit. You turn 13 and you start hating this whole life experience. You become very selfish and you want everything your way. You try to find an image to fit in somewhere but none of them seem to fit. You start going out with more gifts and realize that love is more important than lust. You start listening to a different kind of music, that everyone rags on, but it's the only pure thing that has meaning to it. You become more independent, and try to find the everlasting "PEACE ON EARTH" but soon find out that it was a big joke all along. As you progress into your hellish teenage trials, life starts sucking really bad. You don't fit into your parents category of "All American" but that's O.K. they'll get over it. You no longer want to be alive, suicide runs through your head a few times, but someone, or something stops you from even thinking about it. Religion is a joke, ya just smoked your first roach, and you earned enough to buy a car, O.K. so it doesn't run but it's O.K. for starters. Life still sucks! But there is nothing you can do about it. So just live with it! The world has gotten it's self in and out of lots of shit. So just sit back and watch everyone else fuck their lives up because yours is too precious to waste!

\*\*\*54\*\*\*  
("Living It" originally appeared in a local "zine from Naples called, Demented Words. It's probably five years old, it was the first 'zine I ever read. In a way this zine got me started. I don't agree with it's apathetic message or anything, I just wanted to print it.)





trends that figure is heading to over 2 million before the year 2000. These figures are especially astonishing when we consider the fact that the crime rate has barely risen while the convict total is sky rocketing. In the state of Florida, prisons make up the 2nd largest industry in the state, tourism being the first. Nationally, America actually has the highest rate of incarceration among industrialized nations (direct relationship to capitalism?). The prison industry has become such a lucrative business that even private corporations are investing into the prison market. Companies as Wackenhut Corrections Inc. and Transcorp of America, Inc. already own private institutions around the nation. Wackenhut, for instance is planning to take over an entire region of prisons in Florida. It does not take a social scientist to see that a lot of money is being made by some, VIA the misery of others. This is what the media presents as society's more humane approach to dealing with its malcontents.

### Ya'll Come Back Now, Ya Hear!

The 98% recidivism rate of released prisoners in the state of Florida is a living statement in itself to the effectiveness of prisons - whoops - I mean statistics show that overall, there is, roughly, a 75% recidivism rate. The fact that 80 to 90% of the prison population will be back on the streets unrehabilitated in the sense of committing more crimes, should be frightening to the public. So, 90% of the prison population will be released and 98% of those released will return. This is obviously a wonderful statistic if you have investments in the prison industry, but it is equally saddening if you are an honest citizen, or just someone who gives a shit. Being an inmate who is 14 days shy of release, such statistics are disheartening. Regardless of your standpoint on these facts, a question does come to mind, "Why is the present system failing to do its job?" As I have noted, being an industry, the return of inmates is a prosperous reality. The truth may be that those in control do not want to rehabilitate prisoners or provide ex-cons with a reasonable opportunity to succeed in society. Assuming that this reasoning is incorrect, and prison owners do want to rehabilitate the incarcerated, let's look at the reality of the "Corrective" system. America's angry penal policy of the 90's boils down to meanness and retribution. Don't believe that prisons are a "resort," a pleasant place. Just being in one is dangerous. Consider that prison dormitories, increasingly prevalent as prisons take on a warehouse likeness in these - um - hum - "budget short" times. When the lights go out, in rooms with rapists and murderers, rapes and assaults are a palpable threat. Additionally, ugly, foul, inhumane living conditions only breed desperation, and a desperate person is a dangerous person.

There also exists the illusion that roughing up prisoners will scare them out of future crimes. Brutality may satisfy public cries for revenge against criminals, but it can also create crazed inmates. With the "tougher - than - nails" approach becoming popular and all the "tough on crime" talk in politics, it is no surprise that violence in prisons has soared. For instance, assaults on correctional officers soared from 397 accounts in 1987 to 1,327 in 1995. Ironically, there is not a scintilla of evidence that brutality against inmates reduces the possibility of future crimes. To begin with, a person committing a crime is not expecting to get caught in the first place. Quite simply, it comes down to: violence sewn = violence reaped, violence that is likely to be carried outside the fence with released prisoners.

It is also suprising, from an Anarchist's or Socialist's view, to see how the relation of "property" comes into play in the fallacy of "correction." This is a point I have not seen raised in prison discussions and something I have come to call "the game of have," since inside the bowels of this system. You see, though this does not apply to every single person in prison, the majority of people who find themselves "locked up" wanted to "have." What they wanted on an individual basis is irrelevant whether it be money, dope, prestige, or anything that brings desire to life within the human condition. Well, prison takes people who wanted to "have" so badly that they were willing to do almost anything from robbing to killing, and obviously willing to risk a trip to prison, in order to get what was desired, and place them in a situation where the desire to "have" is magnified. It is reduced to desire for even the smallest of things from a .28 cent soup to a generic cola. I have witnessed more violence over a .28 cent soup and the ending of friendships over a bad - tasting soda than I care to remember. To call such acts "materialism" would be an understatement. This is an obsession to possess. So now we, as a society affected by people afflicted with this craving - madness to possess, have these people in "our" society, though not invisible while in prison, who are lost in the desire to possess and who hold no regard for a respected method of attaining what they want, as long as they get it. (In some ways, this behavior seems like that of those who make a profit off of this sickness to begin with.) What is to be expected when such people are returned to the street? Not only has past behavior shown, in such people, the ability to cross "the line" to attain, but now such a person feels as if they are

THIS IS WHAT YOU'RE PROUD OF

LIES HOMOPHOBIA SEXISM

GENOCIDE APATHY DEATH

PATRIARCHY MILITARISM

RACISM ARROGANCE HATRED CENSORSHIP POVERTY

OPPRESSION CAPITALISM EXPLOITATION - IGNORANCE

ABUSE OF POWER MURDER CLASS DOMINATION

THERE'S NO STATE LIKE A POLICE STATE



even further behind in life; therefore, more desperate to acquire the "haves" than before. It has long been said in certain circles that prison, in present form, only creates or produces better criminals. It seems that by creating more desperate criminals, it is doing the same thing.

This is a realistic consideration. Take, for instance, a person who has served 10 or 15 years in prison, a common situation in Florida. Imagine yourself in his or her position. The world has greatly changed. You are underskilled and unfamiliar compared to / with the behavior of those in standard society. You, most likely, have lost touch with the people you knew before prison, and maybe your parents died while you were locked up. I have seen this situation often. In Florida, you will be given a bus ticket to anywhere in the state, a set of clothes, and 100 dollars minus the cost of the set of clothes. Out of touch with the world, near broke, and homeless is not a promising start to "freedom," but it is a situation prisoners find themselves facing in many instances. Some are fortunate enough to find shelters, half-way houses, etc. Willing to accept them with no money down and a prison record - but what about the greater number of prisoners who are not so fortunate or creative? Considering that prison environments offer inmates little opportunity to earn the ability to make decisions as they will be forced to do once released, it is likely that the only choices considered, or familiar, under such a desperate situation will be the ones know and practiced the last time a choice was an option. Such a person stands a good chance of returning to prison immediately upon release. This type of person, or this group, represent a guaranteed need for prisons and a guaranteed profit in the corrections market.

In my opinion, the only correctional aspect of the Department of Corrections is its educational department. At my last "camp" where I helped teach students who were studying for their G.E.D., the average T.A.B.E (Test for Adult Basic Education) score was at fifth grade level. This statistic included scores of inmates like myself, therefore raising the overall average of the institution. In truth, as statewide studies have shown, and has been reported by The Associated Press, 3/4 of the inmate population in the state of Florida is functionally illiterate. In times when a child prodigy is an eight year old who can define "barbiturate" and use Windows 95, the likelihood of an illiterate ex-con finding a job in the "free world," as we call it from in here, is not even probable. Due to overcrowding in the system, waiting lists exist for G.E.D. classes. At present, I must compliment the system on its efforts to educate inmates; an additional 60 days off an inmates prison sentence is offered as incentive for prisoners to earn their G.E.D. Of course, each institution receives extra funding per inmate, so the system has monetary motivation, but at least educational opportunity is offered to those who want it. Unfortunately, legislation is under way to reduce and eventually eliminate education programs inside the prison system. Once this is accomplished, the only corrective aspect of the prison system will have been eliminated. Now we can add uneducated to the scenario mentioned earlier, i.e. broke, out of touch, and homeless. Prison doors are already revolving doors; imagine what they will be once education is removed altogether! The system is begging such inmates to come back to prison.

My personal experience with prison is hard to sum up. Since my time began, I have witnessed events I once thought only occurred in movies. For me, prison has been what I have made it, at times. Still, so many aspects have been out of my control. The only correction for myself has been the result of my own introspection and outward actions. If I had chosen, as most inmates do, to sit around and bullshit about, "The good old days" I would be completely worthless by this point, not by society's standards which mean little to me, but by my own opinion. Prison does attempt to beat the self-respect out of a person, it attempts, and often succeeds, in humiliating a person. One of the worst things about prison, for me, has been the incessant abuse. I have been talked at, yelled at, like a disobedient dog, even as I have done my best to roll with the punches. I have been belittled and threatened so often and in so many ways that I have a lot of built up hostilities. Sometimes the rage goes so deep I envision things that would make McVeigh look like a beginner. I have never been violent, and refuse to let the system get a hold of me and mold me into that kind of person, but I do feel a seething anger inside. I have gritted my teeth until some are worn down. The stress has even started to show up in intense anxiety attacks. This is a direct result of my reality.

The other factor that totally pisses me off is the fear factor. Between the daily threats of officers and the occasional threat of some random jerk, I find myself dealing with threats more often than a prostitute in the Vatican. In Florida, and everywhere judging from what I have read from prisoners around the nation, we can receive write-ups called "Disciplinary Reports (D.R.'s)", and these delay an inmates release.

D.R.'s do not just apply to violent acts. Something as simple as forgetting to shave or stepping off a sidewalk onto the grass can keep an inmate in prison for an additional 6 months. To some extent, the system does not seem to want prisoners to be released. (Also a proven

premise/conclusion by all the mandatory and lengthy prison terms being handed out.) After all, the state is allotted money for each inmate. More inmates means more money for the prison industry. Prison can become a trap for a person once inside, and when they have you - they really have you. D.R.'s also become a form of revenge for certain officers. There are a surprising number of officers who don't like inmates, surprising because the job of a correction's officer is the only occupation that would cause a person to be around inmates. At the same time, for far too many, it is about having authority over others - and D.R.'s are a method of proving "yeah, you're the man! I wanna be just like you!"

Something I am frequently asked about is "racism" in prison. It definitely exists, but more often than not it is the whites who are victimized. Prison is one place where blacks have the upper hand and they seem to abuse it often. Racism is the product of ignorance in any form, and prison is not short of ignorant persons. I will leave it at that.

Sadly, middle-ground common-sense solutions to the incarceration dilemma can't be debated these days. The few concerned officials, anxious to reinvent corrections policy for a less ominous future, fear being politically mau-maued by "Law 'n' Order" extremists calling out for vengeance against wrongdoers. Even many wardens - which went out with the justice here in Florida, we have superintendents - know that the present system isn't working, and due to the abusive way it's being run, their institutions may be headed for outbreaks with physical danger to, both, guards and inmates alike. Often they fear for their jobs, if they speak up publicly. It is a sad reality of bureaucracies. Until the impasse is broken, we can only expect prisons to be increasingly afflicted by hopelessness, desperation, and violence.

So, I guess I have droned on for long enough. By the time this article goes to print I will be a free, in the relative sense, man. Anyone interested in prison reform - or revolution, as there is hardly a chance that reform will do any good in this system - please contact me. Additionally, I am especially interested in meeting or just making contacts with other punks, activists, or interesting people who won't let the media induced stereotype of "ex-con" frighten them. My charge was forgery related, hardly violent. I am 26 and have been into punk/HC for 15 years. I am setting up a band in the Orlando area. Anyway, thanx for the time and consideration.

Mike Martin  
3811 Cheverly Dr. E.  
Lakeland, FL 33813

\* Please include a phone # if you are able and feel comfortable with doing so.

